

TAXATION CENTER OF ALL QUESTIONS

State Legislative Problem of Providing Revenue to Avoid Deficit.

SEE \$1,000,000 SHORTAGE

Appropriation Bill Waits Until Vital Issue Has Been Settled.

After remaining in eclipse for nearly five weeks the tax reform question has emerged as the State legislative problem of ranking importance, and for the next two weeks it promises to hold the center of the stage in the General Assembly. The spotlight will be contested by the Mapp prohibition bill and the co-ordinate college measure—both on the calendar and awaiting action—but the question of providing additional revenue to state off a deficit of approximately \$1,000,000 in 1917 promises to hold first place.

Until the tax question is settled it will be impossible to frame the appropriation bill, since the liberality of its provisions for schools, colleges and various other public institutions will be determined by the amount of revenue that the State will receive in the next two years. Chairman Brewer, of the House Appropriations Committee, said last night that while his budget for 1917 is practically complete, the appropriations for the year following will not be determined until the question of additional revenue is definitely settled.

GIVE ALL CHANCE

Numerous hearings have been held by both Finance Committees with the view of arriving at a solution of the vexing revenue problem. For the most part, these hearings have been in executive session. The policy of these committees in closing to interested parties the discussions dealing with proposals to increase the tax has been sharply criticized in many quarters. To the criticism the committee members have uniformly replied that the executive sessions were held for reasons of expediency, and that at the proper time everybody interested would be given a hearing.

The Senate Committee on Finance has taken a step in this direction by fixing several public hearings this week for a discussion of the various tax increases that have been suggested. The first of these will take place at 8 o'clock to-night in the courtroom of the State Corporation Commission. It will deal only with the proposed increase in the franchise tax of railroad corporations and probably with the suggested re-assessment of railroad property.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Counsel for the railroad companies, who were denied admittance to the hearing of the Senate Finance Committee on Friday night, at which time members of the State Corporation Commission and Governor Stuart laid before the committee their advice on the proposed increases, were inclined to criticize the course that has been pursued in this connection, pointing out that they will be expected to defend their cause to-night without having been given the usual opportunity of hearing the reasons advanced in support of the franchise tax increase.

To-morrow night the Senate Finance Committee will hear a public discussion on the proposed increases in the tax on merchants and the tax on light, heat and water companies. All hearings will take place at 8 o'clock in the State Corporation Commission courtroom.

MISTAKE OF 1915 MUST BE RECTIFIED NOW

Students of the partial segregation system put into effect by the special session of 1915, including the chairman of the House Finance Committee, declare it to have been the cardinal sin of the special session that it made the rates too low. The impending deficit of 1917, it is felt, is in no way due to the weakness of the segregation scheme, but solely to the fact that the General Assembly overestimated the income from some sources, and was in this manner led to frame a tax schedule on too low a gear.

Now that the State is confronted with the necessity of correcting its mistake of 1915 by raising the rates on several tax subjects which, in the opinion of the State Advisory Board on Taxation, are not bearing their proportionate share of the tax burden, there is opposition from every quarter.

MERCHANTS MAKE PROTEST AGAINST ANY INCREASE

From the merchants of the State come perhaps the strongest protest of all. These make the claim that, while the tax rates on various kindred subjects were materially reduced by the special session, the merchants' taxes were left virtually as they were before. The proposal now to recast the merchants' tax schedule so as to increase the amount received from the larger dealers is being strongly opposed, and a large delegation will be on hand on Wednesday night to protest against the increase.

Notwithstanding the protests from the merchants, the Governor and other members of the State Advisory Board on Taxation, including State Auditor Moore, hold the belief that they have no real grievance, and that as a class they have been subjected to no discrimination. In his talk to the Senate Finance Committee on Friday night, the Governor indicated his belief that the merchants, under the proposed re-

Clark Denies Plan to Oust Kitchin

Talk Concerning Majority Leader of House Characterized as Nonsense.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 13.—Speaker Clark issued a statement to-night characterizing as nonsense talk of ousting Representative Kitchin from the House majority leadership because of his opposition to the preparedness program and other administration plans. He said he expected to leave the Speaker's chair whenever he felt it necessary to oppose or support any measure, but would do so without any intent to supplant Representative Kitchin or any other committee chairman or leader.

"It's a pity," said the Speaker, "that all Democrats do not agree about all things; but Mr. Kitchin has as much right to his opinion as the President has to his. I have faith that by the exercise of forbearance, moderation and wisdom we will evolve plans for preparedness and other great questions, such as raising revenue on which we can all stand. That's my hope and expectation.

"No man can pull a proposition through the House by main strength. The entire philosophy of success in that able and tumultuous assembly is to take things by the smooth handle, to rub the hair the right way of the hide, and to confer freely with members, persuading rather than attempting to drive, yielding in nonessentials, firm as a rock on fundamentals.

There are 426 members, and every one of them has a perfect right to his opinion and to express it whenever and wherever it seems to him meet and proper.

"If the busybodies who are trying to stir up strife by magnifying small differences of opinion among Democrats would help eliminate these differences, they would constitute themselves patriots instead of marplots."

URGES FIGHT ON ANTHRAX

Dr. Rogers Wants Order for Redirection of All Hides Shipped From Infected Ports of China.

NEW YORK, February 13.—Dr. C. T. G. Rogers, of the division of industrial hygiene of the State Labor Board, it was announced to-night will request Surgeon-General Rupert Blue, of the United States Public Health Service, to use his influence with the Treasury Department to have an order issued for the redirection of all hides shipped to America from anthrax-infected ports of China and South America.

Dr. Rogers's action is based upon the fact that Eugene Hiera, a hide handler of this city, is believed to be dying of anthrax at a hospital here.

GLOVESVILLE WORKMAN DEAD FROM ANTHRAX

GLOVESVILLE, N. Y., February 13.—Niles Reynolds, aged fifty-three, died early to-day from anthrax, which he contracted last Wednesday while working in a leather manufacturing plant here on sheepskins, imported from South America. The disease was communicated through a slight skin eruption on his neck.

This was the second case among workmen of the same plant within a year. The other man recovered.

MORSE HALL DESTROYED

Home of Chemical Department of Cornell University Is Prey of Flames.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] ITHACA, February 13.—Morse Hall, the home of the chemical department of Cornell University, was practically wiped out by fire early this morning. The loss exceeds \$300,000. Research work on which scientists have been laboring for years was destroyed.

Inadequate water pressure handicapped the firemen. J. C. Ashmead, star guard on the basketball team, saved the building by throwing a bucket of water over the flames. Three hundred students formed a salvage line and managed to save 5,000 volumes from the library and all the office records.

Junior week girls in scanty attire and coats served hot coffee and sandwiches to the tired and half-frozen firemen and students. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

FORD'S NEW PEACE STEPS

Will Launch Country-Wide Campaign of Advertising Against Preparedness Program.

DETROIT, Mich., February 13.—It was announced to-night that Henry Ford is preparing to launch a country-wide campaign of newspaper and magazine advertising against the preparedness program for huge naval and military expenditures now before Congress.

It was said Mr. Ford intends soon to carry out his announced intention to devote millions of dollars to an educational campaign against war and preparedness, which he declared to be the first step toward actual war.

None of the details of the plan could be obtained to-night, except that Mr. Ford had been considering the campaign for some time, and that "all the people of the country would be reached by it."

STRIKE IS SETTLED

Substantial Concessions Are Made by American Sugar Refining Company to Employees.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, February 13.—The State Board of Arbitration has brought about a settlement whereby the 4,300 striking employees of the American Sugar Refining Company, Williamsburg, will return to work to-morrow. Substantial concessions were made by the sugar company.

In one department the hours will be reduced from seventy-two to sixty-six a week, while the hourly wage will be increased from 18-1/2 to 23 cents. Corresponding concessions were made in all other departments.

1,500 MEN PRESENT AT MASS-MEETING

Governor Stuart Opens Virginia Laymen's Convention at City Auditorium.

STORM KEEPS FEW AWAY

Dr. Tippy, of New York, and Dr. Potat, of Furman University, Are Among Speakers.

The Virginia Convention of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, of the national missionary campaign, which will be in session here for four days, opened yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock in the City Auditorium, with Governor Henry C. Stuart presiding. The convention is the first of the kind in the State since the morning and snowfall in the afternoon, just about the time the convention was called to order, the crowd was not as large as was expected. Nevertheless, more than 1,500 men were present.

Governor Stuart told briefly of the work of the Laymen's Missionary Movement. The business man, he said, realizing the fact that he must have spiritual aspirations, as well as business aspirations. The material benefits of man were not now being submerged at the expense of the spiritual, but rather the spiritual was the other way.

DR. TIPPY DISCUSSES SOCIAL SERVICE WORK

Rev. F. T. McFadden, D. D., gave the invocation, after which Rev. Worth M. Tippy, D. D., pastor of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, New York City, spoke on "The Broadening Meaning of Social Service." He told of the need of united effort in social service.

Catholics, Protestants and Jews working in harmony," he said, "is an irresistible force for the common good. The people of these faiths should be united, rather than working as separate units, for the care of neglected children, for the relief of poverty, and the other social ills of the body of humanity.

"Mind you, I do not mean that these faiths should amalgamate into one composite religion, that is beside the question. But what I do mean is that such a union would work to the greatest good of the State. It is only by such concentration of effort that we may ever hope to better social conditions.

WORK IS INEFFECTIVE WHEN IT IS DIVIDED

"That such a union has worked to advantage has been proved in the city of Cleveland. There fifty-six different and distinct charitable organizations cared for the neglected children. The organizations were founded on religious lines. The work was scattered, and needless to say ineffective. Then, all of them were organized into one great central body, which embraced Catholic, Protestant and Jew. The result was that, whereas before, the neglected children of Cleveland were given insufficient care, now Cleveland is a model for other cities in the United States in the care of neglected children.

Dr. Tippy was here loudly applauded. Continuing his talk of the difference between social service of to-day and social service twenty-five years ago. Then it was in a chaotic state. Charities were taken care of in an unorganized manner. Now all of this is different. Centralized bureaus, which make a study of poverty, and which do not merely stop their work after they have fed hungry men, but go still further by going to the cause of the men's hunger, and then make heroic efforts to remove the cause.

"Organized charity to-day should be able to meet every difficulty. It should lift the whole community, and not a certain group, to a higher plane," declared Dr. Tippy.

TELLS OF SUFFERERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

"Just as the State of Virginia is trying to pass a compulsory education law, the State of South Carolina is trying to do the same. The children of the poor are suffering from pellagra. He described the campaign of education in which these suffering people are taught that diet and sanitary living conditions will do much to alleviate the disease. One of the simplest remedies, he continued, was the sprinkling of salt in drinking water. Such a simple matter as this was not known to the people until science, which is organized knowledge, taught them its effectiveness. This is an example, he said, of an organized and united effort to make the living conditions of a whole section better.

HE URGES LAYMEN TO FIGHT POVERTY

Dr. Tippy also told of a Catholic priest who attended a meeting of Protestant ministers at which the question of caring for neglected children was under discussion. The priest told the assembly that his religion was far behind the times in caring for children, and that he hoped for united action. Dr. Tippy ended his talk by urging the laymen present to fight poverty and social ills with a united front, rather than by scattering their energies.

Rev. E. M. Potat, D. D., president of the American Missionary Society, was the next speaker. His subject was "Spiritual Objectiveness of Business." The meaning of the word objective, he said, in the title of his talk was best expressed by the questions given by two men when asked what was their objective.

(Continued on Second Page.)

TRAVEL BY BOAT TO BALTIMORE.

Fares: \$2.50, first class; \$2.00, second class. York River line, office 507 East Main st.

STORM SWEEPS BY AFTER SPRING DAY

Rain, Hail and Snow Bring Freezing Temperature to Richmond.

CLEAR AFTER NIGHTFALL

Stars and Moon Peep Out When Gale Passes Seaward.

Having retired with the breath of spring upon her brow, Richmond awoke yesterday morning to look upon an overcast and portentous sky, and to pass through a day in which it rained, sleeted and snowed until the stars came out and shone dimly down upon a whitened city.

During the afternoon the wind, blowing down from the frozen north, rose to a gale of twenty-five miles an hour, swirling through the street canyons in innumerable cross currents and driving the snow into foot-deep drifts against the grooved walls of the skyscrapers. At 6 o'clock the snowfall began to decrease, and before 7 it had entirely stopped, though the dying wind still howled and shrieked around the corners and lifted the drifts on the roofs into scurrying currents that blinded pedestrians and drove the policeman to any shelter he could find.

Coming so suddenly on the heels of an early April day, the storm and cold brought suffering to man and beast, for in the many changes which this curious winter has brought one could not get used to one variation before another came. In a day it has been spring, summer and winter. In a day one has longed for his Panama and his Palm Beach, and then for his fur-lined overcoat. So Richmond shivered in unwonted fashion yesterday, having not had the opportunity for preparedness.

HEAVY PASSES TO SEA AFTER LEAVING RICHMOND

The origin of the storm was not well defined. It was stated by the Weather Bureau. It seemed to come from all quarters at once, and at times Richmond was the vortex of every wind that blew, so that not even a mariner could have wet his finger and found from which quarter the main blow was coming.

Toward the setting of the sun, however, the storm settled itself into a definite line, and the bitter wind blew keenly and coldly from the northern wastes. Passing over Richmond, the storm drove out to sea, where it soon was spent.

The rain began with a soft drizzle shortly before the church bell, changing to a heavy fall at noon. Sleet followed at the dinner hour, and at 3 o'clock the sleet was changed to snow, which came down in blinding cross currents. Within three hours it was an inch deep on the level, and against the buildings where it was drifted it attained a depth of a foot.

At 8 o'clock in the morning the wind was blowing at a rate of eighteen miles an hour, from which it increased to a rate of twenty miles at noon, and at 5 o'clock it was running a gale of twenty-five miles an hour. At 8 o'clock its force was spent, and before midnight it was practically calm, and the stars and moon were out.

The city still bitterly cold, and street thermometers registered 23 degrees, nine degrees below freezing point.

The forecast for to-day is fair and cold, with slowly rising temperature.

PHILADELPHIA'S STREETS RESEMBLE ICE RINK

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., February 13.—Philadelphia's streets for several hours to-day resembled a vast network of frozen canals, and for the first time in years it was possible to traverse the city from end to end on skates. Great throngs of skaters took advantage of the rare opportunity, while few pedestrians ventured out. Scores of persons were injured by falling on the icy streets, but no one was seriously hurt. A blinding snowstorm, which set in shortly after noon, spoiled the skating sport.

A light storm, which started early last night and continued until daybreak, was responsible for the unusual condition. Wire and rail communication in all directions were badly crippled.

STORM MAKES WALKING DIFFICULT IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, February 13.—Four inches of snow fell here to-day, and, coupled with rain, sleet and increasing cold, made walking difficult and seriously impeded the traffic.

Hospitals were busy treating persons suffering from broken limbs, sprained ankles and wrists, although no fatalities were reported. Incoming trains were delayed from ten to forty minutes. Many wires are down along some of the railroad lines. A force of 20,000 men was put to work clearing the city's streets of snow and sleet.

The Western Union Telegraph Company reported forty wires down between Philadelphia and Baltimore, and twenty-six down between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

SHIPPING IN HARBOR GREATLY DISORGANIZED

Shipping was greatly disorganized as a result of the storm. The liner Kroonland was forced to remain outside the harbor, owing to the blinding snow. She probably will dock to-morrow.

Northwest storm warnings were hoisted along the coast to-night. The San Giovanni, from Naples, managed to make her dock, but only after her commander had remained on the bridge for thirty-six hours battling with the storm.

The British steamer Dunelmah reached quarantine after one of the most tempestuous voyages on record. This vessel sailed from Manchester on January 11. Captain Jones said that immediately the ship reached the Irish Sea he ran into heavy weather.

RESIGNATION HAS MAGICAL EFFECT

When Garrison Quits Cabinet Legislative Atmosphere Is Immediately Clarified.

MAKES ARMY PLAN POSSIBLE

President and Congress Now Closer Together Than in Many Months.

WASHINGTON, February 13.—Secretary of War Garrison's resignation last week has had three far-reaching results upon Congress, in the opinion of administration leaders. When the excitement following the unexpected development had subsided it was apparent that it had clarified the legislative atmosphere with regard to two important issues, national defense and Philippine independence, and had served almost magically to bring Congress and the President closer together than they had been for many months.

As to the national defense, the resignation of the secretary finally sealed the fate of his continental army plan, which chairmen of both House and Senate Military Committees declare never could have been accepted by Congress. A week began at once on preparation for framing a plan of federalization of the National Guard to create a reserve defensive force for the nation.

LATENT ENTHUSIASM AROUSED IN MEMBERS

Latent enthusiasm for preparedness was aroused in scores of influential members of both branches who had been opposed to the continental army plan and had been taking only a passive interest in the defense program. Now these members have put their shoulders to the wheel, and there is a prospect that an army reorganization bill will be perfected in the near future. Representative Hay, chairman of the House committee, already is at work redrafting the House bill eliminating the continental army feature. The Senate Military Committee, having concluded its hearings, will get down to the task of framing its bill to-morrow, and Senator Chamberlain, the chairman, proposes to confer with members of the House committee as the work progresses. An effort will be made by both committees to co-operate as much as possible.

Evidence of the fact that Mr. Garrison's withdrawal has served to cement the bonds of sympathy between Congress and the President came in the adoption by the House Military Affairs Committee of a resolution thanking the President for his expression of confidence in Congress disclosed in his correspondence with Mr. Garrison. It also was demonstrated in comments of many Senators and Representatives who declared that they saw in President Wilson's determination not to stand irrevocably for any one plan of creating an army reserve, a purpose to place more reliance in the judgment of the legislative branch of the government than he had in the past.

MAY BRING ADOPTION OF CLARKE AMENDMENT

With respect to the Philippine issue, the Garrison resignation has served to enhance the chance of the Clarke amendment to the self-government bill, adopted by the Senate and providing for complete independence within four years, in spite of the President's own opinion that such an amendment is unwise at this time. Secretary Garrison was formerly opposed to the amendment.

The House committee now has the bill under consideration, and conferences with the executive branch have been held on the subject, all tending to strengthen the prospects for passage of the amendment. The Insular Affairs Committee now is expected to substitute the substitute for its own with few, if any, changes.

In the Senate this week the Nicaragua, Haitian and Colombian treaties and the under consideration of the Nicaraguan treaty is practically assured, and the vote may be taken to-morrow. Senator Stone proposes to call up the Haitian convention next, and little opposition is expected. The Colombian treaty, however, will be bitterly opposed, and administration Senators themselves are almost convinced that it cannot be ratified in its present form.

The inquiry into the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis to the Supreme Court will be resumed by the Judiciary subcommittee on Tuesday, with Mr. Brandeis's connection with the United Shoe Machinery Company the particular subject for investigation.

ANNUAL FIGHT SOON WILL BE PRECIPITATED

The annual fight over the river and harbors bill soon will be precipitated in the House. The \$100,000 appropriation bill for this session, already completed, except for a possible inclusion of a single new project, that of \$700,000 for East River, N. Y., urged by President Wilson, in order to provide safe passageway to the Brooklyn Navy-Yard and an outlet between the North River and Long Island Sound, will be voted out of committee on Tuesday, and the bill will be brought up in about a fortnight to run the gauntlet of the House. Many members propose to insist upon new projects. The measure is now confined to completion of projects already authorized or maintenance of existing works.

The post-office appropriation bill, always the vehicle of protracted political oratory, is lagging along, with the prospect of occupying at least all of the coming week, except for days set aside for special orders of business. The main fight is on the rural free delivery provisions and on new legislation proposing to change the system of railway compensation to a space basis, and to provide for government bonding of department officers and naval contractors.

Germans Fiercely Attacking French

THE Germans are fiercely attacking the French positions in the Artois section, as well as the reports the capture of a front of about 700 yards, while the French admit that the Germans have gained a foothold in some of their advanced trenches near the Thure-Somme-Py road.

On the British end of the line there have been snapping operations and bombardments by both sides.

All around Soissons the German artillery was busy, preparatory to infantry attacks; but the attacks did not eventuate, owing to the French use of their guns in curtain-of-fire volleys.

Considerable damage has been done to German positions in the Artois forest by the French. Artillery duels are in progress in Lorraine and in the Vosges.

The heavy guns are being actively employed on both sides in the northern section of the Russian front, but no important changes in positions have occurred.

On the Black Sea, Russian torpedo-boats have sunk additional Turkish sailing vessels, and have destroyed bridges ashore.

The German gunboat Hedwig von Wissmann has been sunk on Lake Tanganyika, Africa, by the Belgians.

WILSONS SPEND SUNDAY ON BOARD MAYFLOWER

Yacht Leaves Old Point and Steams Up Chesapeake Bay in Face of Driving Snowstorm.

IN WASHINGTON EARLY TO-DAY

President Faces Busy Week of Conferences Over Appointment of New Secretary of War, Defense Plans and Other Pending Legislation.

OLD POINT, VA., February 13.—The presidential yacht Mayflower, with President Wilson and his wife aboard, left Old Point at 2 o'clock this afternoon and steamed up Chesapeake Bay in the face of a driving snowstorm. She is expected to dock at the Washington Navy-Yard about 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The President did not come ashore during the day, declining an invitation to play golf at the Hampton Roads Club. Yesterday he and Mrs. Wilson inspected Fort Monroe and made a launch trip to Newport News, arriving just too late to see a big tank steamer launched at the shipyard there.

WILL REACH WASHINGTON EARLY THIS MORNING

WASHINGTON, February 13.—A wireless message from the Mayflower to the Arlington station at 9 o'clock to-night said the yacht was steaming easily up the bay, and would reach here early to-morrow morning. The weather had cleared.

MARKS BEGINNING OF VERY BUSY WEEK

WASHINGTON, February 13.—President Wilson's return to Washington to-morrow from his week-end cruise on the Mayflower will mark the beginning of a busy week of conferences with leaders in Congress over the appointment of a new Secretary of War, national defense plans, and other pending legislation.

Among those with whom the President has appointments to-morrow are several congressional delegations with candidates for the vacancy in his Cabinet, and others who want to suggest men for the assistant secretaryship. The President's advisers think that the new Secretary of War will be permitted to name his assistant.

Other delegations of Representatives have appointments to urge the President to visit their districts in his next tour of the country to advocate preparedness. The President has indicated, however, that he does not expect to start soon on another trip.

The usual semi-weekly Cabinet meetings on Tuesday and Friday and the congressional reception on Friday night also are on the week's program, and there will be conferences the latter part of the week with House leaders on the rural credit bill and with House and Senate leaders on national preparedness.

Sunday saw no new candidates mentioned for Secretary of War. The impression seemed to be growing among the President's advisers that the new secretary would not be chosen from the army. Such a decision by the President would eliminate Major-General Goethals, who has been considered by more than forty Representatives.

VENIZELLOS IS CANDIDATE

Former Premier of Greece Decides to Return to Active Political Life.

PARIS, February 13.—The Journal's Athens correspondent says that former Premier Venizelos of Greece has decided to return to active political life, becoming a candidate for a vacancy in the Chamber of Deputies from Mytilene.

M. Venizelos resigned the premiership twice during the war, owing to the opposition of King Constantine to his policy in favor of the entrance of Greece into the war on the side of the entente allies. He has not been active politically since the recent general elections.

GERMANS CAPTURE FRENCH POSITIONS ON 700-YARD FRONT

Attack Along Whole Line From Flanders to Champagne.

PIERCE ALLIES' LINES AT FIVE DIFFERENT POINTS

Hand-Grenade Battles Continue Without Interruption in Western Theater.

RUSSIANS STILL ON OFFENSIVE

Force Almost Inaccessible Passes and Continue to Make Progress.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.)

LONDON, February 13.—The Germans, attacking along the whole line from Flanders to Champagne, have penetrated the allies' line at five different points, according to official reports received to-night. At three points the attackers were again expelled, but at one point in Flanders and at another in Champagne they have maintained their gains. All reports indicate terrific and repeated attacks, with the Germans mainly on the offensive in the infantry attacks.

The most vicious fighting occurred around hill 146, in Artois. West of this height, the Germans to-day launched five desperate attacks. The final assault carried the Germans through the French first-line defenses. The French immediately launched a counterattack, which drove the Germans out, with heavy losses in dead and wounded.

Five successive counterattacks also were made by the Germans late yesterday afternoon and last night in an effort to retake the trenches lost to the French east of Butte-du-Metz. The Berlin statement on fighting in this sector says that the Germans stormed the French front over 700 yards south of St. Marie-a-Py, capturing more than 200 officers and men.

Fighting around Vimy up to last Wednesday netted nearly 700 prisoners to the Germans, besides twenty-five machine guns and other material, according to the Berlin statement.

BERLIN CLAIMS CAPTURE OF 700 YARDS OF TRENCHES

BERLIN (via London), February 13.—Heavy fighting is in progress in Champagne. The German War Office announced to-day the capture of French positions extending over a front of about 700 yards. In Flanders the Germans penetrated positions of the entente allies. The statement follows: "Western front. In Flanders, after lively artillery fighting, the French and strong reconnoitering detachments penetrated positions of the enemy. Several mines were exploded effectively. Southeast of Boesinghe more than forty yards were captured. British artillery bombarded the town of Lille yesterday and Friday. Considerable material damage was done, but there was no loss of life or destruction of military property.

"On our front, between La Bassée Canal and Arras, and also south of the Somme, hostilities were impeded by bad weather. In the fighting in the region northwest and west of Vimy up to February 9 we captured nine officers, 652 men, thirty-five machine guns, two mine-throwers, and stores of various descriptions. Our artillery shelled heavily the enemy's positions between the Oise and Rheims, with good success, as is confirmed by patrols.

"In Champagne, south of Saint Marie-a-Py, we stormed French positions extending about 700 yards, capturing four officers and 292 men. Northwest of Massignes the enemy unsuccessfully made two violent attacks. Hand-grenade battle continued without interruption over the portion of our trenches which the French occupied on February 11. Between the Meuse and the Moselle we destroyed by five large explosions the advanced trenches of the enemy over a front of thirty to forty yards. Lively artillery fighting is proceeding in Lorraine and in the Vosges, south of Russe. East of St. Die, a German detachment penetrated advanced portions of the enemy's position and captured more than thirty prisoners.

"Our aeroplanes bombarded enemy positions and the railway establishments at La Panne and Poperinghe. An attack made by an enemy aeroplanes on Ghietelles, south of Ostend, caused no damage.

"Eastern front. The situation generally is unchanged. East of Baranovichi two advanced positions held by the Russians on the west bank of the Czara were stormed.

"Balkan front. There is nothing to report."

GERMANS EJECTED IN COUNTERATTACK

PARIS, February 13.—The following official statement was given out to-day: "To the north of Vieux-Aisne our artillery dispersed enemy detachments which had advanced as far as our wire entanglements.